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the time of observation from the times of greatest elongation and position-angle of the apparent apsides as given in the American Ephemeris. Until this year the agreement with observation has always been close—1° or 2°. But this year my observed angles are invariably *90° smaller* than the computed ones. It would seem, therefore, that the times of greatest elongation as given in the American Ephemeris for 1903 are systematically in error by one fourth of the periods of the satellites.

R. G. AITKEN.

COMET *b*, 1903.

A telegram from Boston was received at the Lick Observatory on the evening of May 2d, announcing that a comet had been discovered by GRIGG at Thames, New Zealand, on April 17th, and had been observed by TEBBUTT at Windsor, N. S. W., on April 26th. The comet was looked for here on the evenings of May 3d and 4th, but it was so near the horizon at sunset that it could not be seen. A telegram giving elements and ephemeris of the comet was received on May 7th. From these it appears that the comet is moving east and south and is rapidly growing fainter. It is not likely to be visible at all from northern observatories.

It will be seen that nine days elapsed between the time of the comet's discovery and the date of the first accurate observation, and six more days were needed to get the news to northern observatories. These were unfortunate delays, though presumably unavoidable. Had news of the discovery reached us promptly some observations of the comet could have been secured here.

R. G. AITKEN.

May 14, 1903.